

# Our Times-DISPATCH

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

Business Office: 916 E. Main Street  
 Postoffice: 1102 Hull Street  
 Telephone: 1102 Hull Street  
 Daily with Sunday: \$4.00 \$10.00 \$1.50  
 Daily without Sunday: 4.00 2.00 1.00  
 Sunday edition only: 2.00 1.00 .50  
 Weekly (Wednesday): 1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs), Manchester and Petersburg—

One Week  
 Daily with Sunday: 1.00  
 Daily without Sunday: .20 cents  
 Sunday only: .10 cents

Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1909.

## MAXIMUM DUTIES INDEED.

After March 31 next and upon ninety days' notice by the President, every duty in the Aldrich bill, outrageously high as many of them are, will be raised 25 per cent. upon the value of the article. If any foreign country wants to escape this elevation pyramided upon an elevation, it must prove to the President's satisfaction that it is giving this country the "most favored nation" treatment in respect to every commodity which it sells here. This is the meaning of the Aldrich maximum and minimum provisions which the Senate has carried through without the assistance of any Democrat. A more oppressive arrangement would not have been easy to devise.

The retaliatory device proposed in the House was far better in every way. Its maximum scale was far lower than that provided by the Aldrich bill. The House's 20 per cent. "raise" was a per centum of the duty, not on the value of the article. A 1 article taxed at 50 per cent. thus acquired an additional duty of just 10 cents. The additional tax imposed by the Senate arrangement in this case is 25 cents. Further, the duties imposed by the House bill, generally appreciably lower than those of the Senate, were the duties which become operative.

The maximum duties were to be imposed against a country only upon proof that it was discriminating against us. Mr. Aldrich, taking no chances of duties lower than the highest obtainable, has exactly reversed the application. Senator Clay, who ably fought this proposal, clearly pointed out the distinction.

There is a vast difference between the two. In the first case Congress fixes a rate of duty which it recognizes as the general rate that is to be applied. . . . In the other case it fixes a rate of duty clear above that—higher than any rate of duty that ever was enacted by any other Congress—and declares that to be the general, proper rate of duty, simply giving the opportunity and power to the President to give to others, upon the ascertainment of certain facts, a still lower rate of duty.

As Senator Shively pointed out, the adoption of the amendment was a service of notice that the description of the duties named in the bill "as the general tariff of the United States" was "something of a joke." The "general tariff of the United States" is the duties in the bill with 25 per cent. ad valorem piled on top of them. The "minimum" duties, closely paralleling, where they do not exceed, the Dingley duties, must be won as a special privilege. The maximum duties, as here arranged, should in many cases cut importation to pieces; if they do not it will be no fault of the little hand of statesmen who have contrived and applied them.

As the operative tariff, they make as grotesque a travesty on downward revision as the most merciless industrial parasite could desire.

## BRISTOL'S UNIQUE PROBLEM.

Few towns ever had stronger financial reasons for turning dryness into wetness than has Bristol, Va. Bristol has been without saloons for two years. The practical effect of its untrammelled condition during this period seems to have been largely frustrated by the proximity of the Abingdon dispensary, fifteen miles away. It is said that the Bristolians' expenditure for liquor at Abingdon has run to about \$60,000 a year, and this, despite the fact that under the State law the dispensary was forbidden to ship to its near-by customers. That the Bristol Mahomets have been going to the mountain at a fairly lively clip is shown by the fact that the Norfolk and Western Railroad has sold 135,000 round-trip tickets from Bristol to Abingdon in the last twelve months. If the people of Bristol are going to consume all this wet goods, it is being urged, why should the people of Abingdon pocket all the revenue?

If the Abingdon argument impels towards relicensing the saloons, so does a similar argument over the State line. On the 1st of July Tennessee passed under virtual prohibition. Bristol, as every school-child knows, sits on the State line, half in Virginia, half in Tennessee. If Bristol, Va., were wet, it is evident that it could minister very profitably to the liquorous needs of Bristol, Tenn. The accident of location enables it lawfully to defeat the Tennessee law, which provides that no saloons shall be established within four miles of a schoolhouse. Since most of the territory surrounding Tennessee is already dry, Bristol's remarkable strategic advantages as a main order point to supply are manifest.

Wetness beckons to Bristol with possibly unhalloved, but certainly golden fingers. On the one hand, she could cut off the outflow to Abingdon and keep all these useful dollars at home. On the other hand, she could start new

and plentiful revenues flowing into her tills from parched Tennessee. The situation is unique in the history of prohibition, and the strain upon virtue is prodigious. Believing that it will prove too great to be borne, the wets have forced a new test of strength at the earliest legal opportunity, and the election comes off to-morrow. But it is by no means certain that their hopes will be fulfilled.

Bristol, Tenn., voted itself dry before Bristol, Va., but its vote was for a time regarded as of doubtful constitutionality. Thus Bristol, Va., faced a problem then, too. If the Tennessee town were legally dry, the Virginia town, just across the street, acquired a rare opportunity to sell liquor to it. If the Tennessee town were not legally dry, the Virginia town, just across the street, had little to gain morally by going dry itself. Yet under these conditions, Bristol, Va., two years ago voted itself dry by a vote of 539 to 392. The temptations to wetness are stronger now, and two years of unrenewed drought may possibly have dimmed some of the earlier enthusiasm. But that mile-long parade on Monday, including all sorts and conditions of persons, and headed by the Mayors of both Bristols, suggests that anti-saloon fervor is by no means dead, and that the fight, whichever way it turns, is certain to a close one.

## THE VIRGINIA SOCIALISTS.

The Virginia Socialist party is alive and stirring and seems determined to assume an active part in the coming gubernatorial campaign. At the presidential election last November the Socialists polled only 256 votes in this State, and consequently cannot expect to have their candidates taken very seriously yet awhile. At the same time, they have one possession which the dominant party in the State might well envy them. Rather than trust the formulation of party principles and policies to the inclinations of their candidates, they have adopted an official platform that is definite and clear-cut in its demands. A party-made declaration of policies is a good deal more than the Democrats can boast just now.

In the main, the Socialist platform follows closely the principles laid down by the National Socialist party at its convention in Chicago last May. Like the national platform, it advocates the abolition of child labor for all persons under sixteen years of age. It demands the restriction of the right of injunction in labor disputes. It asks for compulsory general education, and would have legislative recall and proportional representation adopted as State laws.

Along with these general demands, as advocated by the national party, the Virginia Socialists have adopted several planks which have a more local bearing. They demand the abolition of the present convict contract labor, and they would have the next Assembly adopt a general employers' liability law. In the place of the present law providing for the sale of delinquent lands, they demand a law requiring that this land shall all revert to the State. This, it will be recalled, is in line with the reclaimed-land and communal ownership planks of the National Socialist party.

The destiny of socialism in Virginia, as in the rest of the country, depends more upon the character of the demands made by the party than upon anything else. So far, its propaganda has made little headway in Virginia. In the campaign for Governor four years ago, the Socialists mustered 453 votes, which we take to have been an unusually good showing. But they may at least be congratulated upon knowing exactly what they want and laying this clearly and authoritatively before the people.

## A PROJECTED NEGRO COLONY.

Colonization is a variant of absolute expulsion which has often been suggested as a solution of the negro problem. Very recently we have seen it proposed that a certain State, or certain parts of various States, be assigned to the negroes for their use, inclusive and exclusive. Ideas such as these have usually been put forward on national and political lines. A St. Louis negro now offers to apply the same ideas commercially. He has gotten control of 37,000 acres of land near the Arkansas line, which he proposes to break up into building lots and sell to negroes only. He figures on establishing 200,000 negroes on this territory, which would allow an acre to every five or six negroes.

What this enterprising black dreamer is the negro metropolis of the world. The measure of the colored man's success in municipal government, where his white brother has for the most part lamentably failed, would be watched with considerable interest. But the prime test of such a colony would be less in the matter of government than in that of industry. To be worth much as a racial experiment, the negro city would have to be run on community lines. If the colonized negroes had to go out and sell their labor to white men that contact would at once raise up all the old problems. A community is self-containing, and commands its own means of production. The question that would immediately confront the promoters and rulers here would be how to organize their settlement in such a way as to provide work for all the 200,000 colored persons. Trade with the white man's country they certainly could do, as Haiti trades with New York or Liberia with London; but the commodities to trade with must be of their own producing.

Like municipal government, community life has proven a hard problem for the Caucasians, as many short-lived essays have testified. It is very doubtful if the African can bring any more promising talents to the solution of it. It is doubtful if he can be induced to form himself into an all-black community at all. It is doubtful if numbers of him can, or will, command the \$5 down and \$5 a month necessary to qualify for the ownership of a lot. Altogether, it is to be suspected that the St. Louis organizer is pursuing an ill-drawn rainbow which has not even the proverbial pot of gold at the other end of it.

FREE TRADE AND FREE TRADERS. It has been said that one optimistic makes a dozen pessimists. It is no doubt as true that one high protectionist makes a dozen free traders. The recoil from ideals which they dislike naturally carries men far in the other direction. Moderate protection is more justifiable than extreme protection; but it is a fact that the system itself begets necessary evils, and that these will always be found wherever the right to use the taxing power for individual gain is recognized. As long as protection lasts in any measure, its tendency to affect public morals for the worse will continue. Now a committee of distinguished citizens, headed by the venerable John Bigelow and Charles Francis Adams, has issued a call which looks to organizing the free trade sentiment in the country, and ultimately casting out the protective system, bag and baggage.

Free trade is the antithesis of protection, and that is all it is. The popular but unfounded idea that it involves the abolition of all customs houses, and the loss of all customs revenues, has led to much unnecessary confusion. The most familiar example of a free-trade country is, of course, Great Britain, a country which derives large revenues from customs taxes on tobacco, sugar, coffee, tea, wine and six or eight other articles of large consumption. "Free trade" means simply the policy of imposing no duties which would restrict the liberty of buying and selling or preclude the full advantages of competition. Since Great Britain produces no coffee, for example, a duty on that commodity cannot possibly interfere with the Britisher's freedom to buy coffee wherever it is cheapest and best.

Another erroneous idea of some currency is that the term "free trade" or "free trader" somehow carries a kind of reproach. Tariff reformers who may believe in incidental protection, but who protest vigorously against exorbitant duties, are derisively dubbed "free traders" by their adversaries. They warmly deny that they are any such thing, and the impression communicates itself to the unthinking that they have been accused of something discreditable. It is possible, however, that this impression antedates all American tariffs, and is a survival of eighteenth century conditions in England, when the so-called "free-traders" were those whom we now know as smugglers. At any rate the idea to-day is as silly and wrong as possible. Free trade may or may not be economically wise. But it is no more a term of reproach than is free press, free speech or free conscience.

In this country the ideal of Mr. Bigelow and the twelve other signers of the circular is a long way off. Measuring the sentiment for it, however, is worth while, and the proposed organization may prove a power in paving the way to a fiscal revolution, which is very likely to come some day.

Somehow the terrors of lockjaw seem realer afterward than before.

community at all. It is doubtful if numbers of him can, or will, command the \$5 down and \$5 a month necessary to qualify for the ownership of a lot. Altogether, it is to be suspected that the St. Louis organizer is pursuing an ill-drawn rainbow which has not even the proverbial pot of gold at the other end of it.

## MARY'S LATEST PET.

Mary had a little pet. She wore it in her hair. And everywhere that Mary went The pet was surely there.

Mary had a speckled hen. Every day she laid an egg. But at night she was a rooster. Mary had a brother John. The worried her a lot. For whenever she had a head He was Johnny-on-the-spot.

## MERELY JOKING.

Worse Than War. "I understand that John D. Rockefeller is going to England."

"England? German scare was undoubtedly silly, but no one will blame her if she gets frightened now."

## The Envious Neighbor.

"My son takes the highest honors in English and mathematics in his class."

"The first father (bitterly): 'Some fathers are better off than I am.'"

## Free Trade.

"I don't know where to go this summer."

"They all say that your board is good."

## Some One After All.

"So you make your wife do all the carving at dinner?"

"Sure, isn't it a wife's duty to be a help meet?"

## Careful Dentist.

"He's a careful dentist."

## The Wise Chauffeur.

"What is a chauffeur, Hans?"

"A chauffeur is a man who is smart enough to run an auto, but too smart to own one."

## WISDOM IN SMALL DOSES.

There has been much wonderment at the small doses of wisdom which have been so effective a Senator.

Explanation lies in the fact that his blindness to the obvious is a great advantage over many colleagues.

## Between the Income Tax.

Between the income tax, a corporation dividend tax and a new lot of stamp taxes, the ordinary citizen may conclude that the only way to pay, nay, pay less.

## New York City Has Another Bridge Connecting It With the Outside World.

New York City has another bridge connecting it with the outside world, and will have to part with a little more of its insularity.

## Florida Is Interested.

Publication of Prof. Eliot's five feet of books has provoked at least forty rods of criticism.

## Wants to See the Washington-Jacksonville Roadway Completed.

The Washington Post and Richmond Times-Dispatch have undertaken the task of arousing public sentiment to such a pitch that a first-class, hard-surfaced, automobile highway will be constructed from Washington to Jacksonville.

It will be a straightaway thousand-mile course, the purpose being to make the road a factor in the building up of the country.

It is estimated that fully 750 miles of the proposed route are already in better condition than the roads in scattered spots to be improved.

The purpose of the promoters is to secure enthusiastic co-operation from the newspapers, chambers of commerce, boards of trade and good roads associations along the route, and it is believed that every county in all of the States through which the road will pass will give hearty support to the movement.

Managing Editor Poole, of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, is putting an enthusiastic effort into the work of arousing interest along the line through his paper and by personal letters.

The Washington-Jacksonville road, has already been over the route from Richmond to Washington, and the Washington-Jacksonville road, has already been over the route from Richmond to Washington.

Great interest has already been manifested in the proposed road, and it is believed that every county in all of the States through which the road will pass will give hearty support to the movement.

The House of Representatives was in session for ten minutes on Monday, a record for the Senate, which is a record for the House.

The tariff debate is nearing its finish, and so is the consumer.

The Democratic postmaster of an Indiana town has resigned his job after holding it thirty-two years. Democrats never were hogs for pie, like some parties we could mention.

Through no fault of its own, the word "revise" has acquired a new connotation of dubious merits.

The Oklahomaans have found indictments against Crazy Snake, which is a whole lot easier than finding Crazy Snake.

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## The Courts of Europe.

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

King's Indian Order. His Majesty King George V. has issued an order in council, whereby the Indian Order of the British Empire, which was instituted by royal warrant in 1901, is now made a statutory order.

Colonel Sir William Wylie's sensational assassination by a young man, who was shot on the spot, at an entertainment given at the Imperial Institute, in London, serves to call attention to the remarkable immunity enjoyed by the British government officials during the last few years.

Since Great Britain obtained possession of her great Oriental empire, and since the late years ago, during the great Sepoy mutiny of 1857, there have been, until the present Liberal administration, and the adoption by Lord Morley of his policy of non-interference in India, comparatively few cases of murder or high officials by natives in India.

In fact, with the exception of the late Lord Curzon, who was slain by a native convict while visiting a native settlement on the Andaman Islands, in 1904, there have been no cases of the shooting of another viceroy, namely Lord Lytton, by a fanatic in 1875, and an attempt to poison by means of a poisoned glass, in 1876, the British resident and plenipotentiary at the native court of Baroda, which was a native principality of that State was deposed. I cannot recall any crime, prior to 1906, that has been committed by a native against a British official in India.

In general, and by the people of India, in particular, the relative security from harm enjoyed by the British dignitaries, both in India and in the great Eastern dependency of the British Crown cannot be ascribed to scrupulous killing of natives, or to the fear of the ordinary capital punishment which the crimes would have entailed. Nor can it be attributed to any devotion or liking of the natives for their English masters. They are no different from other races, and they are not more scrupulous in their treatment of their rulers than any other race.

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